

Times-Dispatch

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HOW TO CALL TIMES-DISPATCH.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1938.

The road of duty is long, rough and bounded by no horizon but death. Let us march onward then, boldly, and without sparing our feet.—Said.

THE NEED OF BANK INSPECTION.

Among the several good bills which were introduced in the Legislature and which died or were choked to death in committee, none was more worthy than that to create a Bureau of Bankings, as provided for in the Constitution. The need of such a bureau was emphasized by the recent failure of a State bank in the city of Portsmouth. This institution, with total assets of \$500,000, of which \$100,000 was the people's money on deposit for safe keeping, was looted of nearly \$300,000 by one man.

This bank had a president and board of directors, all of whom are prominent and trusted citizens, and it was their duty to see that the affairs of the bank were honestly conducted. But they took too much for granted. They planned their faith to the cashier and did not inspect his accounts as closely as they should have done. The cashier took advantage of their confidence and systematically robbed the bank for a period of ten years, appropriating, all told, more than half of the bank's assets. And the probability is that the thefts would have gone on indefinitely without discovery, if they had not been revealed by the panic. It is to be presumed that the president and directors exercised a general supervision over the affairs of the bank; that they counted the cash, looked over the books and made signed reports to the State Corporation Commission as provided in our present law, declared dividends to stockholders which the cashier told them had been earned, went to their homes, ate, slept and were happy in the consciousness of having done their duty to the best of their ability. But the trouble was that the president and directors did not have expert knowledge of the banking business. They did not know how to examine the books and accounts of the bank's officers. The cashier was an expert manipulator and was too sharp for the president and directors. But could he have deceived an expert bank examiner? If the State had had a first-rate system of examination, it is possible that the Portsmouth cashier could have robbed the bank for ten years without being detected?

If not too late to correct a great error and wrong to the public, as well as to the banks themselves, let the Legislature take up the subject promptly and with earnest effort, and enact a law at this session providing for a Bureau of Banking and such necessities as will make it effective.

It is already provided in section 1169 of the Code that the State Corporation Commission shall, not less than once a year, and at such other times as they may deem necessary, cause to be examined each and every bank "heretofore or hereafter designated as a State depository." But there is a bit of grim humor in this. The State regularly examines the banks in which her funds are deposited, but other banks in which the people's money is deposited are not examined, unless one-fifth of the stockholders, representing one-fifth of the amount of capital stock, request it. And an examination in such conditions would be sure to place the bank under suspicion and injure, if not destroy, its credit. The State ought to follow the lead of the United States and require that all institutions receiving money on deposit be examined regularly by an expert, and that it publish reports as often as they are made, upon call, by the national banks.

THE LURE OF THE PUE COUNTER.

An excellent illustration of the strong hold of the patronage system was afforded the other day in Congress by the frank opposition to Secretary Root's bill for the abolition of various useless consulates. Mr. Root named the consulate at Jamestown, Helena, for one, where it costs the government \$2,475 a year to collect \$16 in fees. He also named the post at Jalapa, Mexico, where it costs \$2,000 to collect \$300, and several other posts at which the expenses of maintenance exceed the revenues by \$1,500 or more. Mr. Root argues that these consulates, having demonstrated their own superfluousness, should be discontinued. Various members of Congress, seeing in these posts good berths for party wheel horses, candidly oppose the secretary. Just what form their logic would take would make an interesting speculation to the casual reader, unused to the intricacies of congressional debate.

The reorganization of our consular

system is one of those propositions which every Congress buzzes about in a more or less solemn manner and no Congress tackles, without contradiction, the worst service in the world. It badly needs to be remodeled on a strictly competitive basis, with merit as the one standard for admission and promotion. Probably everybody in the country understands this, not excluding Congress; but doubtless it is idle to expect public spirit from a Congressman who has once scented the soothing glories of superintendence at the pie counter.

The superfluous consulates are an admirable case in point. The total revenues from all our consulates are nearly equal the expense of supporting them that the saving of some \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually would make the system self-sustaining. The discontinuance of all useless stations would accomplish this saving. But why shouldn't a hard-working Congressman have something good to pass on to the folks back home, when it is only easy old Uncle Sam who is paying the freight?

TROUBLES OF THE TAFT PRESS BUREAU.

The Taft press bureau at Columbus, O., is an alert, vigorous and argumentative bureau, genuinely anxious to earn its wages. Its simple functions are to prepare and disseminate printed matter demonstrating that the Taft boom is superior to all other booms now inviting the attention of the public. At the head of it stands Mr. Arthur I. Vorys, Taft's campaign manager, and presumably a good man and true. However, Mr. Vorys cannot be in the bureau all day; occasionally he has to step out to catch a car, let us say, or purchase a stogie. During one of his absences the other day, it seems, another and lesser bureaucrat, now described, with kindly anonymity, as "one of our men," prepared and sent out some literature which has set all Washington talking. For this literature indicated, with great clearness, that Taft, if elected president, would not feel himself committed to "irrevocably to the Roosevelt policies."

Now the purpose of this literature was obvious enough. Taft has worn a halo all along in this campaign, and that halo is inscribed, in incandescent letters: "My Policies." A frontlet of this sort means votes from all those who love these policies. At the same time, it has meant certain trouble from those of a very different point of view. Obviously the young and indiscreet bureaucrat wanted to mollify these latter by subtly suggesting to them that Taft, if elected, was a Roosevelt disciple for publication only. He apparently failed to see that this suggestion might cut both ways. Mr. Taft, however, lives much nearer the White House than Columbus, O. He perceived the possibilities at once. A brief time after the story of his apparent disparagement of the President appeared in the Washington papers, he summoned Mr. Vorys on the long distance telephone. Later Mr. Vorys issued a repudiation, stating, as one headline rather strikingly put it: "Taft Denies That If Elected President He Will Be Independent." At first, this repudiation was flat-footed, denying all knowledge of the circumstances. Afterwards came an admission that the literature had been sent out, but that this was done without Vorys's knowledge by merely "one of our men."

The incident thus ends in smiles and nothing more. The alert press bureau, however, has plenty of troubles still ahead. From now until November 3d next, it will have to face perpetually this question of Taft's attitude to Roosevelt. For all this time it will have to be determining for itself, and driving home to others, the exact degree of Taft's independence of "My Policies." For all this time it will have to be striking the balance between the Roosevelt lovers and the Roosevelt haters. This is a grave problem for a press bureau, however capable. Upon the solution of it may hang the identity of the next President of the United States.

AN ANALYSIS.

In Sunday's issue we drew a parallel between the strength of Bryan and Johnson as presidential candidates. The New York World is up to the same trick, and it does not make out for the Minnesota man as strong a case as he is entitled to. The World points out that there are 433 votes in the electoral college, 242 being necessary to elect a President. In 1900 Mr. Bryan had 155 electoral votes. A successful Democratic candidate for President must therefore have at least 87 more electoral votes than Mr. Bryan received in 1900.

The World concurs in the opinion of Johnson's friends in Minnesota that he could carry that State and both the Dakotas. These three States have 19 electoral votes, which, added to Bryan's vote in 1900, would leave Johnson only 68 short.

"There are three other States," continues the World, "which Governor Johnson's nomination would make debatable—New York, New Jersey and Illinois. These three States have 78 electoral votes. The six States in question have 97 electoral votes—ten more than the necessary 87—for which the Democratic party might have a fighting chance if John A. Johnson were its candidate for President."

But in 1900 Bryan lost both West Virginia and Maryland, and these would be reasonably safe for Johnson. It is also reasonable to suppose that Johnson would carry Oklahoma. But if Johnson can carry Minnesota, can he not also carry Wisconsin, which Cleveland carried in 1900?

Now, according to this analysis, which is the stronger candidate, Johnson or Bryan? In studying these figures, however, the student must take

into consideration the fact that both the World and The Times-Dispatch are opposed to the nomination of Mr. Bryan.

TAKING STANDING TIMBER.

The writer of The Times-Dispatch article on the bill to tax timber trees in the State was misinformed, and his article was consequently misleading. House bill No. 73, introduced by Mr. Storratt, and finally passed by both branches, does not tax all timber lands, but only those lands upon which the timber has been sold to a contractor to be cut.

So long as the land owner holds both the land and standing timber in his own name, only the land is assessed for taxation. But when the timber has been sold on the stump it passes into personal property, and under the Storratt law is assessed independently of the land for taxation. There is nothing in the act, as we understand it, which is likely to increase the depletion of the Virginia forests.

The attack of Attorney-General Lyon, at Augusta, Ga., on Judge Pritchard, of the United States Circuit Court, is regarded by some of the lawyers as contempt. Under the Federal law, a judge may not haul into court and summarily punish for contempt any and every man who criticizes his conduct, by word of mouth or in the public prints. He can resort to this course only when the conduct of the accused is such as to interfere with the orderly administration of justice. But in this case, we are informed, the Attorney-General advised the South Carolina dispensary commissioners to disregard the orders of the Federal court directing the delivery of the dispensary fund of \$800,000 to the receivers. It may well be asked, therefore, if this is not an attempt to interfere with the orderly administration of justice.

We thought as much when Governor Swanson advised the Corporation Commission of Virginia to disregard the injunction issued by Judge Pritchard in the railroad rate cases.

It is a very serious matter to meddle with an order of court, and properly so.

Harry Thaw is at least sufficiently sound in mind to see what a fool of himself he made when he shot Stanford White of account of the little vixen who had played fast and loose with them both. But when a pretty woman casts a spell over a weak man it takes hard jolts to open his eyes.

Southern visitors in our delightful city have not failed to draw us aside and confess, with tears in their eyes, that the firstborns of Richmond are infinitely more vernal and robusness than the boorish and feeble-witted firstborns of Charleston, Nashville and Atlanta.

According to the Philadelphia Ledger, a woman has just married a man who saved her from drowning twenty-five years ago. We fear that the publication of this item will have a very beneficial effect on the future attitude of men toward drowning women.

Owing to the foolish traditions which hamper royalty, we fear that King Manuel of Portugal will have to forego his naturally strong desire to seek a consort among the little star-eyed blondes of Royal Richmond.

President Swain, of Swarthmore, solemnly tells the reporters that his college will either accept the famous bequest or else it will reject it. Our readers will want to know what that is, what we have predicted from the start.

It is interesting to reflect that if Mr. Knox can secure 497 more delegates to the Republican convention at Chicago, he will clinch the nomination. Number of delegates necessary to a choice at Chicago, 497.

Notes the Bristol Herald-Courier: "Judgeant—Governor Chanler, of New York, says the Democrats should nominate a good man." So this explains why Hoke Smith is staring fixedly at the ceiling, blushing away like 40.

It becomes our duty to state again, as emphatically as possible, that no matter who is elected, old Bill Schick will positively not accept a postmaster.

Senator Allison's period of service in the Senate may have been longer than anybody else's as the Washington Herald says, but Senator Platt's has certainly seemed longer.

"Mr. Butler is a genuine humorist," says a McClure's advertisement. "But his humor is rarely funny." But, of course, everybody will understand that McClure's didn't mean to knock.

As we understand District Attorney Jerome's, his accusers are among the shortest and ugliest words that the world has ever seen.

Young Don Alfonso, who has gone to Barcelona, despite the entreaties of the timid ones, appears to have a preference for being King like a King.

An aged Texan died at prayer the other day. Old people must learn to be careful about going in for novel experiments.

Mr. Bryan doubtless figures that a man who has made so many platforms can be relied upon to strike no snags in constructing a cabinet.

If he can substantiate the charges of influence in the submarine matter, it is his duty to proceed to do so once. Let none seek to paint the Lilley.

Of course, if Mr. Fairbanks does not hear his name mentioned at Chicago, he can always blame it on the acoustics of the hall.

We assume that the Chinese authorities are rapidly getting their apologetic department in thorough working order.

Meantime, Commander Sims has not even been handed a visitors' card to the Ananias Club.

The country's feeling of restored confidence has not, however, extended so far as to apply to Congress.

We trust that the Shah is enjoying the bombly weather.

RETURNS and departures are somewhat balanced in the charming debutante group that held the centre of the social stage during the past week.

Richmond. Miss Elizabeth Johnston is at home again, after a ten days' visit to her friend, Miss Bradford, of Philadelphia. As a most popular member of the group, she is being cordially welcomed back to Richmond by her young companions.

Miss Elizabeth Kent King, with her aunt, Mrs. Junius Morris, is spending

Rhymes for To-Day.

THE FIRSTFLOWER.

SWEET as a cooling young Aurtie
Pure as the waters about
Hobokum—
(Oh, by the by, I am speaking now of
The crocus.)

Bright as when stars from heaven peep
out,
Yellow, but free from all locus.
(This poem, I'll say, is wholly about
The crocus.)

Pretty and fresh as the buds long gone,
Dear as old thoughts that arise to
us—
(Come, Muse, I'm trying to sic you on
The crocus.)

Tender and green in its frail young
stem,
Pleasing to all near its vernal focus—
(I admit, I believe, that I mean—ahem—
The crocus.)

Fragrant and soft as a maiden's kiss,
Flashing with color the dull gray
of the crocus—
(That last is some Latin—it suits, I wis,
The crocus.)

Gladsome and gorgeous as any old
thing,
Better by far than a diplodocus—
Hall of glory, guardian of on-coming
spring! (Viz, crocus.) H. S. IL

MERELY JOKING.

The One Drawback.
Hiram: "What in tarnation did that
durn clerk mean by givin' us this here
kind up a room? Guess he thinks country
folks don't know art."—Cleveland Plain
Dealer.

Hiram: "Matter? Can't you see there
ain't no other door a-leadin' to that there
bathroom, an' naturally any guest that
goes in there ought to walk through our
room?"—Brooklyn Life.

What Could He Say to That?
Husband: "I'm an angry husband,
any old thing appeals to you if it's only
cheap!"
Wife: "Gargling hunting wife grimly smiled.
"Don't you get it, you sarcastically remarked,
"that you yourself are one of my char-
acteristic investments!"—Cleveland Plain
Dealer.

The Woman of It.
Husband: "I had a peculiar dream last
night."
Wife: "What was it?"
Husband: "I dreamed it was judgment
day, and I was to stand before his little
herm. As I was assembling my bones you
appeared before me."

"How strange! Did I say any-
thing?"
Husband: "Yes, you asked me if your
head was on straight."—Chicago News.

Not What He Meant.
Walter: "Who has just served up some
peas?"
Diner: "Yes, by Jove, and tastes like it,
too. Bring me some thick soup."—London
Tatler.

Not a Fashionable Point of View.
He: "What'll you have, Miranda?"
She: "I reckon you'd better order, Jabez.
I ain't much good at mental arithmetic."
Circle Magazine.

THE MERRY KNOCKERS.

BY permitting his daughter to marry an
American, Mr. Hartman indicates that
he is going to stand by his effort
to regain his popularity.—Houston Post.

A New York admirer of Mr. Roosevelt
said: "Look you, Mr. Roosevelt, Wed-
nesday said to him: 'You keep on the way
you have been going; you've got them all
stuck in a corner, that's a fact.'"
New York Sun.

North Carolina is for Speaker Cannon be-
cause "he was born in the State." Wed-
nesday said to him: "You keep on the way
you have been going; you've got them all
stuck in a corner, that's a fact."—New York Sun.

Any time Wizard Burbank has a spare
hour, he might devote it to the invention
of a rainless Sunday.—New York Mail.

"Go fish feel pain!" inquires the Atlanta
Georgian. We should think the low repute
of the fish is due to the fact that they
days would be calculated to give them a
pain.—Washington Herald.

Senator Foraker and Stuyvesant Fish may
sympathize with each other over the sad
fact that there is no gratitude or justice
extant.—Philadelphia Record.

Kentuckian declines to be prohibition
candidate for President. Forget his name
and editorial, wasn't Colonel Watterson—
Chicago Journal.

The marriage of Miss Hattie Fitz-
hugh, of Baltimore, to Mr.
Hert T. Tiffany, of the same city,
will be celebrated on April 23d at the
home of the bride, No. 132 West La-
fayette Avenue, Baltimore.

Mrs. John D. Enright, of Danville,
is visiting relatives in Richmond.

Mrs. William Barnard, Ridd, of
Hampton, has been elected secretary
of the Church Hill Auxiliary to the Vir-
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the Kent Literary Society at Al-
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Grace Kirby, treasurer; Mr. J. W.
Taylor, chaplain.

Mr. and Mrs. Waverly R. Scott are
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of Charlottesville, and Mrs. D. H. Mor-
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Mrs. Ashton Starke will leave soon
to visit her family in Macon and At-
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and Mrs. E. E. Stratton, on Jefferson
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A good old Baptist minister, who
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once heard a tirade of abuse from a
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er. At its conclusion he arose, stating
that he had read the Scripture from
Genesis to Revelation, and only in
one instance had he found that water
was recommended in place of wine,
and that was Dives, in I—i, where he
belonged.

I quite agree with you in saying:
"There would be no 'drink demon' but
for the temperate use of liquor!"
Mr. McCarty's mind has been forced
to a false point of view, and from a
false point of view the truth itself
always looks false. The fault is not
with the "temperance" man, but with the
abuses which are the fruitage of moral
delinquency in personal character.

Co. C, Twelfth Va. Infantry.

Way down on the bottom
of the sea under three
hundred feet of water is the
favorite home of the codfish.

The ice-cold water of Norway
and the North Atlantic is his
joy. He has the power to grow
fat under severe surroundings.
The same natural power is in

SCOTT'S Emulsion

of Cod Liver Oil. Nature her-
self put it there. This power
produces new flesh and new
life in those who suffer from
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the spring in Europe, and will probably
be in Rome for Holy Week. Miss Vir-
ginia Whiteley, with her mother,
Miss Virginia Whiteley, and
Miss Marie Milnes and other members
of her family are in the North Caro-
lina mountains, near Asheville.

Other girls of the debutante group—
Miss Rachel Urquhart, Miss Warfield
Crenshaw, Miss Mary Hart Crenshaw,
Miss Ellen Wills, Miss Elizabeth Wheat,
Miss Julia Grant Moore, Miss Louise
Clarke, Miss Sarah Chamberlayne, Miss
Meta Randolph, Miss Lucy Parke Tay-
lor, Miss Roberta Trigg, Miss Frances
Myers, Miss Elsie Boydin, Miss Myra
Chambers and Miss Juliet Martin—are
in Richmond, attending to their Lenten
duties, and lending a helping hand to
the many charitable enterprises that
will round into completion about
Easter.

A number of these young girls have
eagerness for Easter home parties,
or for the Easter Germans at the Uni-
versity of Virginia, Virginia Military
Institute, Washington and Lee Univer-
sity, the Virginia Polytechnic Insti-
tute and other centers of educational
and social life and interest.

But for the present Easter festi-
vities are dropped out of sight and
Lenten prayers and sewing parties are
in the ascendency.

Annual Board Meeting.

The annual meeting of the board of
managers of the Exchange for Wom-
an's Work will be held on Friday at
noon. A full attendance is requested.

Chapter Meeting.

The regular meeting of the Rich-
mond Chapter, United Daughters of the
Confederacy, will be held to-day
at 11 A. M. in Lee Camp Hall.

Church Hill Auxiliary.

The Church Hill Auxiliary of the
Retreat for the Sick will meet to-
morrow at 4:30 P. M. in the hospital
parlors.

Rosemary Reception.

Miss Annie Blankenship will be
hostess of the silver tea to be given
at the Rosemary Library rooms to-
morrow afternoon. Receiving with
Miss Blankenship will be Mrs. Parker
Dashiell, Mrs. W. C. Bentley, Mrs. J.
Alston Cabell and Mrs. C. E. Willis.

The rooms will be attractively de-
corated and the social hour to be spent
promises much pleasure. The silver
service will be of the most beautiful
kind, and the door will be used for a
much-needed book fund in the library.

At the Girls' Society Tea.

Miss Katherine Hawes and Miss
Elizabeth Davenport will represent the
Girls' Society at the tea-room con-
ducted by members of the society in
the ladies' cafe of the Jefferson Hotel
this afternoon.

Miss Helen Lathrop, Miss Lelia
Davenport and others of the younger
generation will be assisting in the de-
lightful hospitality of the tea-room,
where ice cream and will be served,
as well as tea and toast. The bright
sunshine of the March afternoons fills
Franklin Street, going west, with a
gay throng of promenaders, and near-
ly every one is glad to drop into the
tea-room for a social chat.

Mrs. Swanson's At Home.

The parlors of the Executive Man-
sion, with a background of palms and
flowers, and a dainty and attractively
arranged tea table, were pleasantly
filled last afternoon with many callers
who stopped for a chat with Mrs. Swa-
nson. Among those calling were Mrs.
Harris, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Fred
Pleasant, Mrs. William Palmer, Mrs.
Lightfoot, Miss Maria Lightfoot, Miss
Shelby, Mrs. T. C. Cary, Mrs. John
Thomas, Mrs. B. C. Barker, Mrs. Ashton
Starke, Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. C. N.
Vaughan, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. I. C.
Walker, Mrs. Husband, of Kentucky,
who is spending the winter in Rich-
mond; Mrs. Branch and many others.

These Tuesday at home are a spec-
tacular sight, and a delightful part
of social life at the Mansion.

Personal Mention.

Miss Mary Price has returned from
a visit to her sister, Miss Lottie Price,
at Mary Baldwin Seminary, Staunton.

Miss Josephine Dickey, of Nelson
county, has resumed her studies at
Woman's College, this city.

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Armstrong are
visiting friends in Petersburg.

Hon. John Goode, of Washington, is
visiting his daughter, Mrs. William T.
Brooks, in Norfolk.

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